

Appln. No. 10/055,792

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1074

I. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended). A method for assembling a fuel delivery system comprising:

providing a reservoir assembly having a reservoir unit;

thermoforming a first shell portion and a second shell portion of a fuel tank;

forming a fuel tank access aperture in at least one of said first and second shell portions for allowing access to said reservoir assembly;

fixing fastening said reservoir assembly unit to one of said first and second shell portions; and

sealingly connecting said first and second shell portions to form a fuel tank to enclose said reservoir assembly within said fuel tank after fixing fastening said reservoir assembly unit to one of said first and second shell portions.

2. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein said reservoir assembly is fixed fastened to said one of said first shell and said second shell portions using a plurality of weld feet.

3. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 2, wherein said weld feet comprise heat-deformable structures ~~attached~~ fastened to said reservoir assembly capable of forming a molecular bond with said one of said first shell and said second shell portions.

4. (cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a flange assembly;
removably securing said flange assembly to said at least one of said first and second shell portions for sealing said fuel tank, wherein said flange assembly is disposed within said fuel tank access aperture; and

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removing said flange assembly after said first and second shell portions are sealingly connected together to allow access to said reservoir assembly.

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended). A fuel delivery system comprising:

a plurality of thermoformed shell portions for a fuel tank, at least one of said thermoformed shell portions having a fuel tank access aperture; and

a non-integral reservoir assembly comprising a reservoir unit, said reservoir unit having its smallest cross-sectional area being greater than the area of said fuel tank access aperture, said non-integral reservoir assembly configured to store fuel and said reservoir assembly unit being attached fastened to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions inside said fuel tank.

10. (original). The fuel delivery system of claim 9 wherein said non-integral reservoir assembly further comprises an auxiliary pump, a fuel pump, a reservoir cover, an inline fuel filter assembly, a fuel pressure regulator assembly, and a level sensor assembly mounted to said reservoir unit.

11. (Currently Amended). The fuel delivery system of claim 9 further comprising a plurality of heat-deformable weld feet capable of forming a molecular bond with said thermoformed shell portions, wherein said non-integral reservoir assembly is attached fastened to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions using said weld feet.

12. (original). The fuel delivery system of claim 9 further comprising a flange assembly removably secured to said at least one of said thermoformed shell portions having a fuel tank access aperture.

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13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein fastening the reservoir unit includes joining the reservoir assembly to one of said first and second shell portions.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13, wherein joining includes bonding the reservoir assembly to one of said first and second shell portions.

15. (New) The fuel delivery system according to claim 9, wherein a member extending from the reservoir unit is joined to the at least one of said thermoformed shell portions.

16. (New) The fuel delivery system according to claim 15, wherein a member extending from the reservoir unit is bonded to the at least one of said thermoformed shell portions.

17. (New) A fuel delivery system comprising:

a plurality of thermoformed shell portions for a fuel tank, at least one of said thermoformed shell portions having a fuel tank access aperture;

a non-integral reservoir assembly comprising a reservoir unit, said reservoir unit having its smallest cross-sectional area being greater than the area of said fuel tank access aperture, said reservoir assembly configured to store fuel and said reservoir unit being fastened to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions inside said fuel tank; and

a plurality of heat-deformable weld feet capable of forming a molecular bond with said thermoformed shell portions.

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18. (New) The fuel delivery system of claim 17, wherein said reservoir assembly is attached to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions using said weld feet.

19. (New) A fuel delivery system comprising:

a plurality of thermoformed shell portions for a fuel tank, at least one of said thermoformed shell portions having a fuel tank access aperture; and

a non-integral reservoir assembly comprising a reservoir unit, said reservoir unit having its smallest cross-sectional area being greater than the area of said fuel tank access aperture, said non-integral reservoir assembly configured to store fuel and said reservoir unit being fastened to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions inside said fuel tank; and

wherein said non-integral reservoir assembly is fastened to at least one of said thermoformed shell portions using said weld feet.